



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
March 24, 2009

For More Information, Contact:  
Loreeta Canton  
Stacy Eberl  
Office of Public Information  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Phone: 701.328.2372  
E-mail: [lcanton@nd.gov](mailto:lcanton@nd.gov) or [sleberl@nd.gov](mailto:sleberl@nd.gov)

### **State Health Department Urges Private Well Owners To Take Precautions During Flooding**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is advising people with private wells not to drink water contaminated by flood water.

Any well that has been flooded should be considered contaminated. Until testing shows your water is safe to drink, boil it until it bubbles vigorously for at least one minute. Bottled water also is an option. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, cooking, making ice, washing dishes and brushing teeth. Continue to use boiled or bottled water until testing shows your water is safe. Because of special concerns for infants, use only bottled water to mix formula or canned baby formula that requires no additional water be added.

If chemical contamination is suspected, contact your local public health unit or the North Dakota Department of Health for advice. This would apply, for example, if your water has an uncharacteristic and strong chemical taste or odor. Use bottled water until advised by health officials that your water is safe to drink. Boiling water will NOT get rid of chemicals in your water.

If you get your water from a city or other public water system, you are advised to listen for public announcements in your local area regarding the safety of your water.

For more information, please contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl at 701.328.2372. More information can be found at [www.ndhealth.gov/flood](http://www.ndhealth.gov/flood).

-- 30 --

*Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov).*